

**Advisory Council for  
Asian Pacific American Affairs  
February 2, 2006 Meeting Summary**

The Advisory Council for Asian Pacific American Affairs held its February meeting at the Korean American Cultural Center in Southfield, Michigan with H. Sook Wilkinson, Ph.D. presiding. This meeting began with a presentation on affirmative action by Frank H. Wu, Dean of the Wayne State University Law School.

The Council heard from Angela Bedia and Van Ong of the Far Eastern & American Nurses Association of Great Lakes, Inc. regarding their efforts to circulate a petition letter to abolish the Commission on Graduate of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) examination requirement for foreign nurses. Chair Wilkinson asked Councilmember Susan S. Im to communicate further with Ms. Bedia and Mr. Ong after the meeting, as well as on immigration topics related to this issue. Ms. Im is a Grand Rapids attorney, practicing as The Law Offices of Susan S. Im, PLC. Ms. Im's practice centers on obtaining temporary work visas and permanent resident status for foreign-born professionals and their family members.

The Council also heard from Lawrence G. Almeda, president-elect of the Michigan Asian Pacific American Bar Association (MAPABA) about an upcoming town hall meeting on affirmative action scheduled for February 22 at the Chinese Community Center in Madison Heights. Mr. Almeda is an Ann Arbor attorney with the firm of Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione. His practice focuses on counseling and prosecution in all areas of intellectual property, with emphasis in patent matters, licensing and infringement and validity evaluations in the medical, chemical and mechanical arts.

The Council also heard from Stephanie Chang of One United Michigan who discussed the benefits of affirmative action and the importance of dispelling the "model minority myth." . Chair Wilkinson asked for Council volunteers to help draft a resolution in support of affirmative action, with the assistance of MDCR legal staff.

The Council heard reports from several of the sub-committees within the Council established to further the work of the Council, including community outreach by means of town hall meetings throughout the state, and specific focus on five initiatives established by the Council as priorities for the Asian Pacific American community: Civil Rights, Education (K-16), Education (Governance and Professional Education), Health and Immigration. A strategic planning meeting will be held in March to collect subcommittee action reports and community feedback reports in order to begin drafting a policy recommendation for Governor Jennifer Granholm.

The Advisory Council for Asian Pacific American Affairs was created by a May 2005, Executive Order from Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, to advise the Governor and the Department of Civil Rights on policy matters pertaining to Asian and Pacific Americans in Michigan. H. Sook Wilkinson, Ph.D, was appointed Chair of the Council, which was placed administratively inside the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. A copy of the Governor's Executive Order is available on the Governor's website at <http://www.michigan.gov/gov>.